

2023 YEAR END FINANCIAL UPDATE — With the prayers and generosity of the Bethany congregation and friends, the church’s 2023 General Fund budget was met. Bethany was fortunate to receive two \$5,000 grants from the Mission Rivers District to help support Capital Projects. The Trustees submitted a grant to recondition and paint the church steeple. The Media Committee recognized the need for a grant to replace the broken speaker, located above the altar and to complete the sanctuary media desk.

In August, the Finance Committee started the process of developing the 2024 budget. Staff and Committee Chairpersons were asked to submit a narrative budget of their needs to complete their planned missions. The submitted information was reviewed and approved by both the Financial Committee and the Administrative Council. The 2024 approved budget resulted in an approximate 3% increase from the 2023 budget which partially reflects the 3% Pastor and Staff pay increase. Note, the Pastor and Staff haven’t received a pay increase in the last four budget cycles.

The 2024 Bethany Budget is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Jack Whitmore
Chairman, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee would like to thank Cathy Raines for her 5 years of dedication to the Bethany Treasurer position. Cathy, with her CPA experience, was a major contributor with financial information and internal controls. She is leaving the position to focus on her other programs that support the Bethany mission.

The Finance Committee welcomes Ruth Ann Freeman and Donna Lane to the Bethany Finance Team. Ruth Ann is the new church Treasurer and Donna will help as Financial Assistant.

ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY -- Updated Information

1. Select an available date on the Altar Flower calendar in the main hallway.
 2. Write your name on the corresponding line.
 3. BUMC has an arrangement with Gloucester Florist to provide two altar arrangements (florist’s choice) at a cost of \$60. The following steps are required if you have something special in mind:
 - a. If you’d like to select your own flowers, call the florist by TUESDAY (804-642-4555) of the week you've selected.
 - b. You’ll be responsible to pay BUMC your full amount. Please do not make payment to the florist. Please be sure the florist knows the specific date of your custom order altar arrangements.
 4. Place your \$60 payment (or the amount for any custom order) in the offering plate. Please write ALTAR FLOWERS and date in the memo line of the check or on the envelope, if paying by cash.
 5. Contact Church Office Administrator (804-642-2110 or admin@bethanyumc-gp.org) by noon on Wednesday with the tribute you wish printed in the Sunday bulletin.
 6. Please return your plastic vase inserts to the church, once they are no longer needed, to ensure we have an adequate supply on hand at the florist.
- Questions? Call the church office at 804-642-2110. Thank you for your support of our Altar Flowers Ministry!

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, January 28, 2024

NURSERY is available for infants to 3-year-olds during the Sunday school hour and 11:00 service.
The nursery is located in the main hallway between the office and fellowship hall.
Nursery volunteers are needed. WILL YOU HELP? Sign-up sheet is outside the nursery.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God with gratitude for his endless blessings, by Laura & Scott Glaze.

(February 4 is the last available date to donate flowers before Lent. See back page of announcement insert for updated information on the Altar Flower Ministry).

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
TODAY CONFIRMATION SUNDAY (11:00 service)	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 a.m.	Celebrations & Fellowship(WBFH)
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
	4:00 p.m.	Joshua Spiritual Formation Group (Mary Lotsey)
Monday, January 29	6:00 p.m.	The Points HOA Annual Meeting (WBFH)
Tuesday, January 30	10:00 a.m.	Missions Committee (WBFH)
	1:00 p.m.	Church & Society (WBH)
	5:00 p.m.	Hand Bell Choir (Lacey Martin)
	6:30 p.m.	United Methodist Men (Nick’s, Gloucester Pt.)
Wednesday, January 31	9:00 a.m.-noon	AARP Tax-Aide (Set-up only, Education Wing)
	5:30 p.m.	Praise Team (Mary Lotsey)
Thursday, February 1	6:30 p.m.	Cantata & Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
	9:00 a.m.-noon	Bazaar Workshop (WBFH)
	6:30 p.m.	Special Congregational Prayer (Sanctuary)
Friday, February 2	8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Homeschool Music Academy of Gloucester
Sunday, February 4	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 a.m.	Celebrations and Fellowship (WBFH)
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
	6:00 p.m.	UMYF (6th-12th grades) (WBFH/Youth Room)

**There is no Thursday Bible study on February 1 for sabbatical week.
We will meet February 8 and study John the Gospel.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HUGS MINISTRY – Handmade prayer shawls and lap robes are presented this morning to Marion Dixon (prayer shawl), Milton Hudgins and Jim Durette (lap robes). Please join us in praying for these individuals.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENTS have been distributed by email and mail. If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Roane at 804-815-8311.

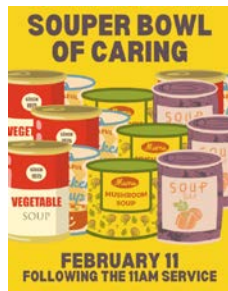
ANNUAL AUDIT -- If you are treasurer for any of our Bethany groups or Sunday school classes, please turn in a copy of your group's check register, as well as bank statements and all invoices/receipts for 2023 to Cathy Raines as soon as possible. (You may leave these in the church office, if you prefer.) We need to submit these items to our accountants for our annual audit. Any questions, please contact Cathy at cathraines@gmail.com or 410-599-6493. Thank you for your help and cooperation in making this year's audit go smoothly.

HOUSE OF PRAYER – THURSDAYS, 6:30 p.m. (Special Congregational Weekly Prayer Meeting—January 4, to May 2, 2024)

JOSHUA SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP, 2024, begins this month, with information/orientation meeting **TODAY AT 4:00PM** in the Mary Lotsey room.

CANTATA REHEARSALS — Choir Rehearsals for the cantata, "Tenebrae" by Heather Sorenson, will be on **Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** until after Maundy Thursday, March 28.

UNITED METHODIST MEN will meet on **Tuesday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m.** at Nick's Spaghetti and Steakhouse. Guest speaker will be Carlos Britos, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones (Hayes office). All men are welcome. For more information, contact Milton Hudgins at 804-832-6289.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 12:15 P.M.

Looking for a way to make a difference this year? Then join us for Souper Bowl of Caring in the fellowship hall on February 11. You can participate by donating a crock of your favorite soup, enjoying the soup tasting and casting your votes, and making a donation of cash and/or canned goods to feed the hungry in our community. Lunch will be served by our dedicated youth and children's ministry. All funds raised and canned food collected will be donated to our local food bank. For more details, check the February issue of *Bethany Banner*.



Please mark your calendars to join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner as we kick off the Lent season! We will meet to feast on **Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m.** in the WBFH

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Join us in the fellowship hall at 9:30 each Sunday for fellowship and celebration!

Birthdays:

1/28 Robert Jordan
1/29 Bruce Long; Linda Enroughty
1/31 Susan Ward; Elizabeth Brown
2/1 Jeannie Meisner
2/2 Diane Pruitt
2/3 Debbie Tilley; James Leigh; Lois Bodziak

Anniversaries

2/1 Mark & Carla Goetz (21)
2/2 James & Betty Durette (61)



PANEL FORUM ON AGING

Wednesday, February 21, 10AM – 12:00PM

Bethany United Methodist Church

1860 Hayes Rd., Gloucester Point

Join us to learn about a variety of senior services. This Forum is open to older adults and healthcare professionals seeking Certificates of Attendance for Educational Credits. Boxed lunches will be handed out after the Forum. Cost: FREE.

Panel Topics:

“Avoiding Common Healthcare Scams” presented by Shawn Smith, State Director, Virginia Senior Medicare Patrol

“Aging in Place” presented by Gada Saunders, Owner, Upgrade Remodeling

“What Seniors Need to Know about Estate Planning?” presented by Angela Manz, Attorney and Owner, The Law Office of Angela Manz

“Senior Safety” presented by Captain Bill Adams, Crime Prevention Specialist, Project Lifesaver Coordinator, Gloucester County Sheriff's Office

“What You Need to Know about Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease” presented by Doug Panto, Community Programs Manager, Alzheimer's Association Southeastern Virginia Chapter

To register, RSVP to www.SeniorAdvocate.Live or call 757-724-7001.

Presented by: **SeniorAdvocate™**